

Biddon State Conservation Area Fire Management Strategy 2013 - 18

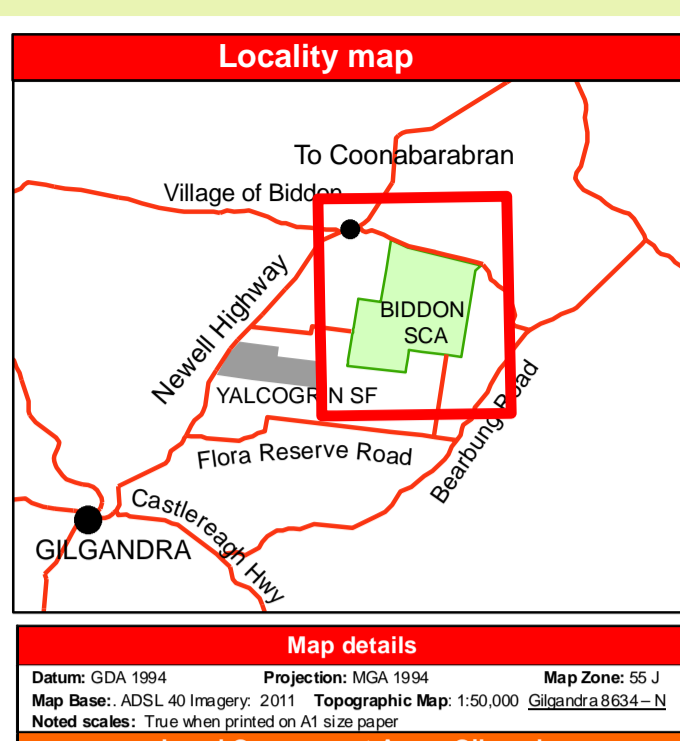
This strategy should be used with aerial photography and field reconnaissance. This is a relevant Plan under Section 38(4) and Section 44(3) of Rural Fires Act 1997. These data are not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and its employees disclaim liability for any act done on the information in the data and any consequences of such acts or omissions. This document is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of study, research criticism or review, as permitted under the copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Published by: Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW). Contact: NPWS Northern Plains Region, PO Box 72 Narrabri NSW 2390. Ph 6792 7350. ISBN 978 1 74359 199 4 OEH 2013 / 0498 Date Approved: 3 April 2013

Related and reference documents

- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service (2012) Fire Management Manual
- Hunter_JT (2008) Vegetation and Floristics of Biddon SCA. Report to NSW NPWS

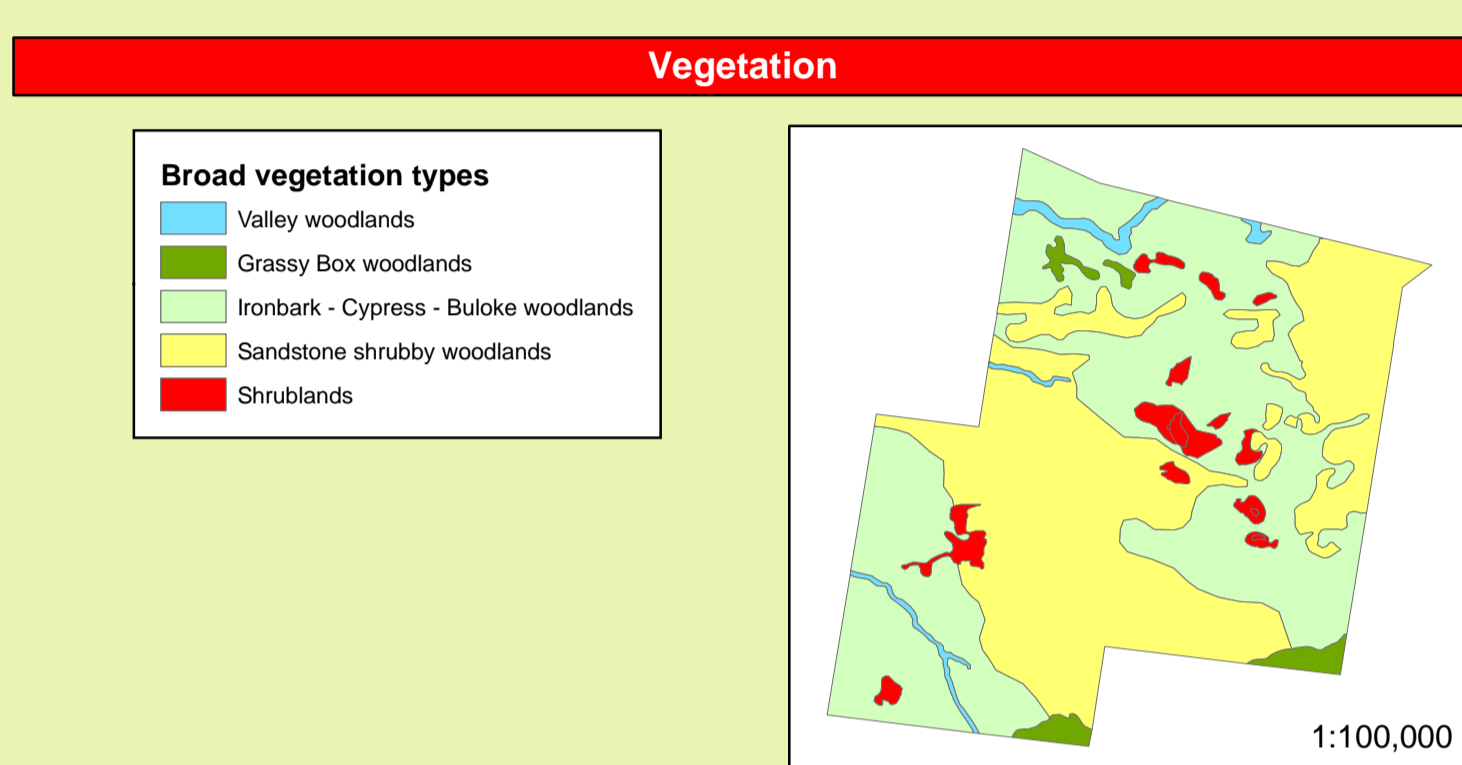
Communications Information		
Service	Channel	Location and Comments
NPWS VHF	31	Needle Mountain
RFS	P132	Needle Mountain
UHF - CB		Small fires - Channel 10
Aviation	126.7	Large fires - determined by IMT
Cellphone		CTAF
		Telstra 3G coverage variable

Contact Information		
Agency	Position / Location	Phone
National Parks & Wildlife Service	Duty Officer (24 hour) Coonabarabran Area Office (bus. hours)	6842 3041 6842 1311
NSW RFS Castlereagh Zone	Zone Manager Duty Officer	0429 305 713 6842 2645
RFS Rural Fire Brigades	Biddon Bulga - Geoff Thomas Bearbung - Albert Cooke Dilly - Colin Zell	6848 8256 6848 3587
NSW Fire Brigade	Newcastle	4929 7177
Emergency Services SES	Police, Fire, Ambulance	113 2500
Police	Gilgandra	6847 8999
Council	Gilgandra Shire	6847 2781



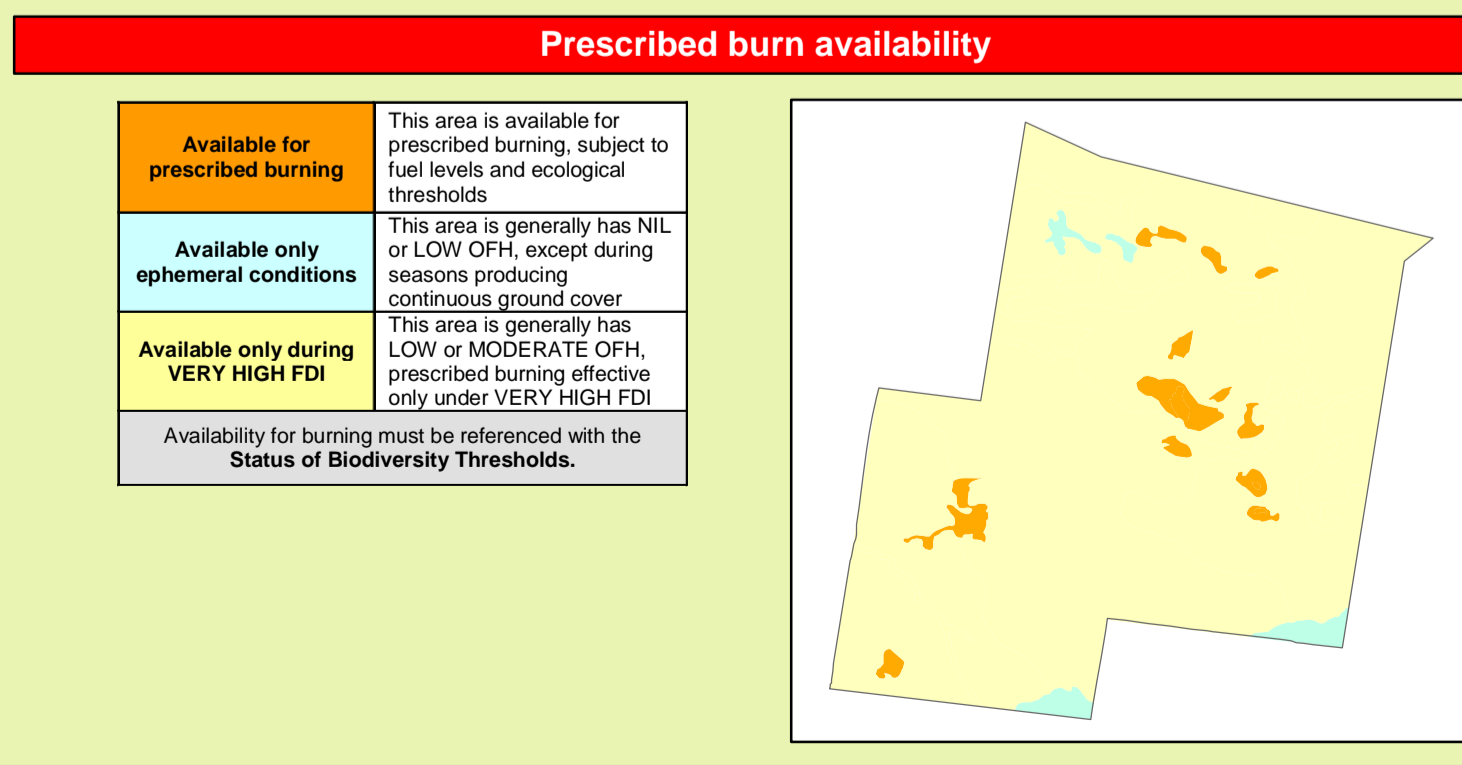
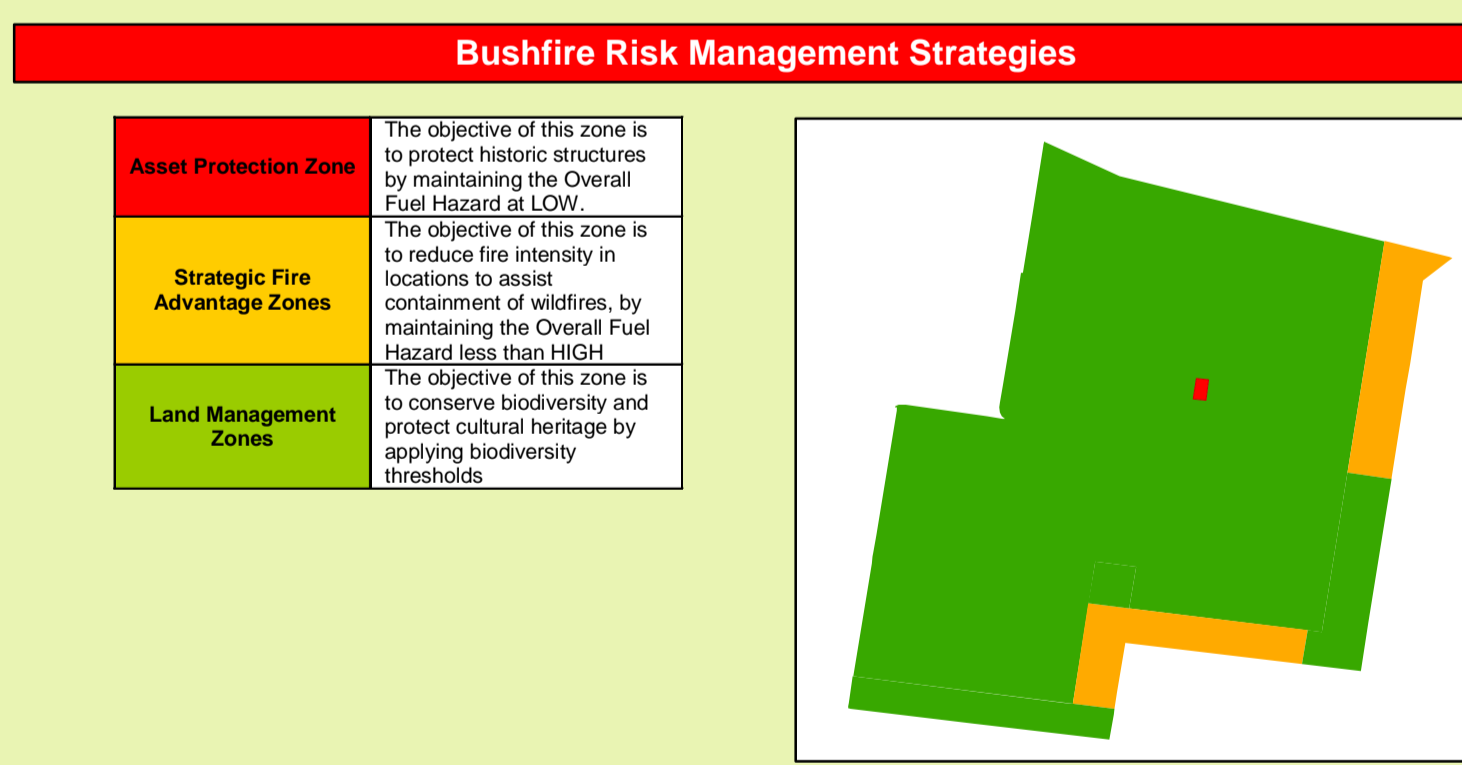
Fire Season Information

Wildfires	Prescribed Burning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The critical wildfire season generally occurs during November and December. During periods of strong negative Southern Oscillation Index (El Niño events), this period may commence late September and extend into the first half of January. The end of the critical fire season is often marked by wet storm activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective prescribed burning may need to be conducted once the "critical fire season" and thunderstorm season is over. This is due to the LOW - MODERATE Overall Fuel Hazard for most vegetation types. Prescribed burning attempted after autumn rain is unlikely to be effective.



Status of Biodiversity Thresholds

Too frequently burnt	Vulnerable to frequent fire	Within threshold	Long unburnt
Consecutive fire intervals are shorter than the recommended minimum interval.	The current fire interval is shorter than the recommended minimum interval.	The time-since-fire is greater than the recommended minimum, and less than the recommended maximum.	The current fire interval is longer than the suggested interval.



Operational Guidelines

Resource	Guidelines
Aerial operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial operations will be managed by trained and competent personnel. The use of bombing aircraft should be supported of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances. All aerial ignition operations require the consent of the NPWS Regional Manager or the Section 44 Approver.
Backburning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel must be fully briefed before back burning operations begin. Backburning in areas of Low - Moderate OFH will require the use of wind, slope or low humidity to maximise effectiveness.
Command & Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly. On the arrival of other combatant agencies, the initial Incident Controller will consult about ongoing command, control and IMT requirements as per the relevant BFMC Plan of Operations. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer. Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on, and must consider both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location. Machinery exclusion areas will be applied in the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malloo Broombush shrublands Old forestry camp Within 50 metres of creeklines Forestry research plots
Containment Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS Officer. Plant must always be guided and supervised by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack, the vehicle must be a fire fighting vehicle. Containment lines running along valley areas should be constructed at 20 - 50 metres from the gullyline to avoid severe erosion. Plant must be washed down, where practicable, prior to it entering NPWS estate and again on exiting NPWS estate.
Earthmoving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of foam, gels and retardants will NOT be permitted within 50 metres of dams and watercourses holding water. The aerial application use foam, gels and retardants requires the approval of the Regional Manager or delegate.
Fire Suppression Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider deployment of a bulk water carrier to support fire operations.
Watering points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential smoke impacts and mitigation tactics will be assessed during the planning of fire operations.
Smoke Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This reserve will be closed to visitors during fire danger periods rated Severe or higher.
Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malloo Broombush shrublands - Burn with a very high intensity. Crews should not be immediately downwind of running fire. Boating Hazards - Fire trails have sections susceptible to sub-soil saturation, leading to vehicles breaking through the surface into quick sand. Markers for these areas are: Red Gum, Bullock, Magga Ironbark, Teatree. Wooden bridges - All fire units and vehicles must detour around wooden bridges.

Operational Guidelines - Heritage

Resource	Guidelines
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modified trees (AS1), including scarred trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the site from fire, clear base of litter and shrubs, exclude site tree from fire where possible. Foam may be used to protect the tree, or to extinguish fire. Do not cut trees Ground based sites (AS2), including: artefacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect site from any ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment and vehicles. There is a high incidence of sites along creek corridors. As a precautionary measure, a machinery exclusion area will apply 50 metres either side of creek lines.
Historical Cultural Heritage Site Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry Camp site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect ground disturbance, including the use of earth-moving equipment Protect wooden structures from fire. Foam may be used to extinguish fire Forestry research plots, Charcoal burning area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclude the use of earth-moving equipment. Coupe / blaze trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same protective actions as Aboriginal modified trees. Wooden bridges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect wooden structures from fire. Foam may be used to extinguish fire
Threatened Flora and Fauna Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endangered ecological communities - Grassy Box Woodlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanical construction of control lines not permitted Machinery use is limited to existing fire trails and dormant trails

Vegetation management

Vegetation Community	Vegetation management guidelines	Fire Behaviour
Grassy Box woodlands Pilliga Box / White Pine woodlands Valley woodlands Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple - Narrow-leaved Ironbark - White Pine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 15 years and greater than 50 years should be avoided Selected areas to be maintained with interval greater than 100 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread would be low to moderate due to Low-Moderate OFH Localised areas of HIGH OFH may occur
Sandstone shrubby woodlands Black Pine / Narrow-leaved Ironbark / Blue-leaved Ironbark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 15 years should be avoided A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 25 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread highly variable Areas of denser Black Pine have LOW / MODERATE OFH with LOW ROS. Areas with a greater elevated fuel hazard may have HIGH OFH Potential RCS during Severe+ conditions is High
Ironbark - Cypress - Buloke woodlands White Cypress Pine / Narrow-leaved Ironbark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events less than 15 years should be avoided A high intensity fire may be permitted after a fire free period 25 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is usually low due to LOW / MODERATE OFH Areas logged recently logged (~10 yrs) may have an ephemeral grass grow in wetter seasons.
Shrublands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interval between fire events greater than 25 years should be avoided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential rates of spread is very high due to VERY HIGH - EXTREME elevated fuel hazard (depth)

OFH - Overall fuel hazard - A rating system that measures leaf litter, grasses, shrubs, bark type and bark condition. Consists of ratings for surface fuel, near-surface fuel, elevated fuel and bark.

Suppression Strategies

Conditions	Guidelines
Valley woodlands, Grassy Box woodlands & Ironbark - Cypress - Buloke woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term biodiversity management Fire danger rating LOW - HIGH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units, except valley woodlands and other exclusion areas. Fire danger rating VERY HIGH - EXTREME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close parallel attack, moving around the head only when the fire stops running Distance between the flank and machinery and fire units should be kept to a minimum
Sandstone shrubby woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads, allowing long-term biodiversity management Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units. Fallback to existing trails and roads, recently burnt areas or vegetation with LOW OFH, when fire runs exceed control line construction rates Secure and deepen control lines on the next predicted downwind side of the fire Backburning effectiveness will drop significantly in the after humidity starts to rise in the early evening.
Shrublands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a broad containment strategy using existing roads Do not attempt backburning in the predicted path of running fire in this vegetation. Direct and parallel attack may be applied with earthmoving machinery and fire units only in adjoining vegetation with LOW OFH Fire runs should be anticipated with winds from any direction. Entrapment risk is very high.

